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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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1. St Kitts and Nevis views the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process as an international landmark in ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights. We are privileged to participate in this initiative and welcome suggestions to enhance our national human rights programmes.

2. It cannot be overly emphasized how firmly committed we are to adhering to international standards in relation to human rights. It must be reiterated that lack of adequate resources, both human and financial, often stymies responses deemed to be necessary by the international community.

3. St Kitts and Nevis wishes to highlight some recent accomplishments in promoting and protecting some of the fundamental rights of our citizens.

Persons with disabilities

4. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services will be giving a subvention to the National Association for Persons with Disabilities to assist with paying a driver when the Association receives a bus in July donated by the Sugar Industry Diversification Fund (SIDF), an entity created by the Government to receive investment funds.

5. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services will partner with the Association of Persons with Disabilities to host a workshop/training regarding accessibility to buildings. The group targeted includes architects, engineers and contractors.

6. Officials of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services will receive training in Sign Language during the third quarter of 2016.

7. In his Budget Address 2015, the Prime Minister stated, "As part of our commitment to protecting and promoting the inherent dignity, worth and the inalienable rights of our differently-abled citizens and residents, steps will be undertaken to facilitate the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities in 2016".

Promoting human rights

8. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services held luncheon with key stakeholders on Human Rights Day aimed at stimulating discussion regarding assessing current attitudes, policies and programmes and to suggest how existing gaps could be filled.

9. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Youth for Human Rights Project will be holding consultation in February with youth groups. The objective is to form a Youth Human Rights Club.

Reporting to human rights treaty bodies

10. The Department of Gender Affairs has employed an executive officer and clerk whose duties include regular data collection and assisting with the development of reports. The executive officer will be trained in reporting on International Conventions in May 2016.

11. The Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is being reviewed within the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services. It is envisaged that it will be resubmitted at the end of March 2016.

Equality and non-discrimination

12. The Director of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services sits on special committee to review model Sexual Harassment Bill which will be presented to Heads of Government at CARICOM meeting shortly.

13. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol has been completed and reviewed by legal drafter. The document has been transmitted for consideration and approval by the Cabinet during the month of March. This is one of the activities to mark International Women's Day.

14. Funding has been received from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives for sensitization training for men on gender based violence. Training commenced on February 15th 2016 at Her Majesty's Prison and a second training will be conducted in the community. Funds will also be used for production of Public Service Announcement (PSAs).

15. UNWOMEN has indicated verbally a willingness to provide technical assistance for training of Permanent Secretaries in gender mainstreaming and child and gender sensitive budgeting.

16. Gender Sensitization sub-project has been submitted to the Caribbean Development Bank for approval for funding under Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) 7, an initiative through the Caribbean Development Bank. This will include funds for PSA's, training for persons in gender and the re-introduction of gender focal points in each Ministry.

17. Sub-project to Strengthen Project Viola – the Teen Parent support programme – has been submitted to CDB for approval of funding under BNTF7. If approved the programme will get funds for skills training, training for facilitators, training for staff and the development of a manual to guide the implementation of the programme.

18. The appointment of the Probation and Child Welfare Board is currently being considered for approval. Once established, the Board will appoint the Child justice Committee and the Adoption Board.

19. In house training was conducted in February 2016 for officers in the Department of Probation and Child Protection Services. Training covered report writing, ethics and case management.

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions to work

20. The Labour Department continues to offer training to clients of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services. The Ministry also refers clients seeking employment to the Labour Employment Desk.

Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

21. The National Social Protection Strategy is being implemented and the Social Protection Bill is soon to be tabled in Parliament.

22. PSAs are being produced to sensitize persons on Mold, Empower, Nurture, Direct (**MEND**) Families Programme.

23. The Consultant who developed National Household Registry and Proxy Means Test to visit Federation in March 2016 and present to Cabinet and other stakeholders.

24. Officers in the Ministry currently completing online course in engaging citizens – game changer for development.

Right to health

25. Workshop held with teen mothers in school late 2015 to assess their heath and other needs.

26. Significant resources have been committed to the Mental Health Day Treatment Centre, currently under construction. It will offer effective treatment to individuals diagnosed with mental illnesses. The primary objective of this initiative is to facilitate independent living skills and offer treatment in areas of drug intervention, personal care and hygiene, and occupational therapy and skills development within a therapeutic environment.

Right to education

27. Through Public-Private Partnerships, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services is seeking scholarship opportunities for teen mothers. One such scholarship will be awarded on International Women's Day.

28. Funding has been received from the European Union for the installation of a new kitchen at New Horizons, the home for at risk youth. This will be used in the culinary arts programme.

29. Through the OECS Juvenile Justice Reform Project outdoor gym equipment and other sporting items will be purchased for the introduction of a physical education programme.

30. The Ministry of Education with the support of the European Union (EU) in an effort to establishment appropriate qualification standards for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has developed and approved an integrated, internationally comparable credit and standards-based National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

Recommendations received at the second cycle review

31. At St Kitts and Nevis' Second Cycle Review in November 2015, during the Twenty-third Session of the Human Rights Council, we received one hundred and thirty-three (133) recommendations; seventy five (75) of which were noted and fifty eight (58) enjoyed our support.

32. Outlined below is a summary of the recommendations in thematic order that were accepted and noted by St Kitts and Nevis.

A. Scope of international obligations

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.1, 91.2, 91.3, 91.4, 91.5, 91.6, 91.7, 91.8, 91.9, 91.10

Noted the following recommendations:

92.1, 92.2, 92.3, 92.4, 92.5, 92.6, 92.7, 92.8, 92.9, 92.10, 92.11, 92.12, 92.13, 92.14, 92.15, 92.16, 92.17, 92.18, 92.19, 92.20, 92.21, 92.22, 92.23, 92.24, 92.2 5, 92.26, 92.27, 92.28, 92.29, 92.30, 92.31, 92.32, 92.33

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendation:

91.11

Noted the following recommendation:

92.34

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.12, 91.13, 91.14

Noted the following recommendations:

92.35, 92.36, 92.37, 92.38, 92.39, 92 40, 92.41, 92.42, 92.43

D. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.15, 91.16

E. Cooperation with treaty bodies

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.17, 91.18

F. Cooperation with special procedures

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Noted the following recommendations:

92.44, 92.45

G. Equality and non-discrimination

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.19, 91.20, 91.21, 91.22, 91.23, 91.24, 91.25

Noted the following recommendations:

92.46, 92.47, 92.48, 92.49, 92.50, 92.51, 92.52, 92.53, 92.54, 92.55, 92.56

H. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.26, 91.27, 91.28, 91.29, 91.30, 91.31, 91.32, 91.33, 91.34, 91.35, 91.36, 91.37, 91.38, 91.39

Noted the following recommendations:

92.57, 92.58, 92.59, 92.60, 92.61, 92.62, 92.63, 92.64, 92.65, 92.66, 92.67, 92.68, 92.69, 92.70, 92.71, 92.72, 92.73

I. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendation:

91.40

J. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.41

K. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.42, 91.43, 91.44, 91.45, 91.46, 91.47

L. Right to health

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.48, 91.49

M. Right to education

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.50, 91.51, 91.52

N. Persons with disabilities

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.53, 91.54, 91.55, 91.56

O. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Noted the following recommendations:

92.74, 92.75

P. Right to development, including environmental issues

St Kitts and Nevis' response

Accepted the following recommendations:

91.57, 91.58